

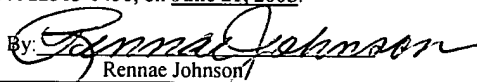
S/N 10/027,081

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED**

Appellant: DeLuca et al. Examiner: Ly, A.
Serial No.: 10/027,081 Group Art Unit: 2172
Filed: December 21, 2001 Docket No.: RA5428
(USYS.032PA)
Title: TOOL SUPPORTING SYSTEM LOG FILE REPORTING

Technology Center 2100

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- ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (USYS.032PA) in the amount of \$500.00 for the filing of the brief in support of an appeal as indicated in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(c).
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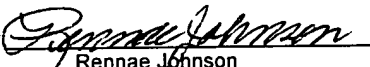
CRAWFORD MAUNU PLLC
1270 Northland Drive, Suite 390
Saint Paul, MN 55120
651.686.6633

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	DeLuca et al.	Examiner:	Ly, A.
Application No.:	10/027,081	Group Art Unit:	2172
Filed:	December 21, 2001	Docket No.:	RA-5428 (USYS.032PA)
Title:	TOOL SUPPORTING SYSTEM LOG FILE REPORTING		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 21, 2005.

By


Rennae Johnson

APPEAL BRIEF

Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Sir:

This is an Appeal Brief submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 for the above-referenced patent application. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (USYS.032PA) in the amount of \$500 for this brief in support of appeal as indicated in 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2). If necessary, authority is given to charge/credit deposit account 50-0996 (USYS.032PA) any additional fees/overages in support of this filing.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Unisys Corporation having a place of business at Township Line and Union Meeting Roads, Blue Bell, PA 19424. The above referenced patent application is assigned to U.S. Philips Corporation via the assignment of the parent application, application number 09/247,782.

II. Related Appeals and Interferences

Appellant is unaware of any related appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings.

III. Status of Claims

Claims 1-24 are presented for appeal and each of the appealed claims, 1-24, is rejected. The pending claims under appeal, as presently amended, may be found in the attached Appendix of Appealed Claims.

IV. Status of Amendments

A request for reconsideration was filed on February 22, 2005, and no claims were amended. The Examiner did not allow the application based on the request.

V. Summary of Invention

In one embodiment, the invention provides a computer-implemented method for report selection in a system that provides a plurality of reports. A database is populated with selected data elements of a plurality of data types (FIG. 1, 128; FIG. 3, 312; p. 4, l. 14-29). A database content table is created to indicate the data types of the data elements present in the database (FIG. 3, 314; p. 4, l. 14-29; p. 7, l. 15-18). A report table is established to contain for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, and each set of report requirements identifies a set of data types required for the associated report (FIG. 1, 134; FIG. 4, 402; p. 10, l. 6-15). For each report identifier, it is determined whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements (FIG. 4, 408; p. 12, l. 4-13). A set of report identifiers is output for which the data types of data elements in the database satisfy the associated sets of report requirements (FIG. 4, 410; p. 12, l. 8-16).

In another embodiment, a computer-implemented method is provided for selection of reports of log data generated by software executing on a host data processing system. The log data are stored by the host system in a sequential log file of log records (FIG. 1, #106, 108) of different log record types. A report table is

established and contains for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, and each set of report requirements includes a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report (FIG. 1, 134; FIG. 4, 402; p. 10, l. 6-15). Selected log records are read from the log file (FIG. 1, 106, 108; FIG. 3, 306; p. 4, l. 4-9; p. 6, l. 18-21), and the log data from the selected log records is stored in a relational log-data database (FIG. 1, 128; FIG. 3, 310, 312; p. 4, l. 14-29; p. 6, l. 22-p. 7, l. 10). A database content table is created and indicates the log record types of the selected log records (FIG. 3, 314; p. 4, l. 14-29; p. 7, l. 15-18). For each report identifier, it is determined whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements (FIG. 4, 408; p. 12, l. 4-13). A set of report identifiers is output of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions (FIG. 4, 410; p. 12, l. 8-16).

Yet another embodiment provides a computer-implemented method for processing log data generated by software executing on a host data processing system. Selected log records are read from a log file in response to a first request that includes a first code indicating at least one user-specified log record type (FIG. 1, 106, 108; FIG. 3, 306; p. 4, l. 4-9; p. 6, l. 18-21). The selected log records are transmitted from the host system to a second data processing system (FIG. 3, 308; p. 4, l. 7-9; p. 6, l. 19-21). Log data are converted from the selected log records to a format suitable for storage in a relational database and storing the data of the second format in a relational database by the log record types, and the selected log records are converted and stored in the relational database at the second data processing system (FIG. 1, 122; FIG. 3, 310; p. 4, l. 14-16; p. 6, l. 22-30). A report table is established and contains for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, and each set of report requirements includes a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report (FIG. 1, 134; FIG. 4, 402; p. 10, l. 6-15). A database content table is created and indicates the log record types of the selected log records (FIG. 3, 314; p. 4, l. 14-29; p. 7, l. 15-18). For each report identifier it is

determined whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements (FIG. 4, 408; p. 12, l. 4-13). A set of report identifiers is output and for reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions (FIG. 4, 410; p. 12, l. 8-16).

An apparatus for report selection in a system that provides a plurality of reports is provided in another embodiment. The apparatus includes means for populating a database with selected data elements of a plurality of data types (FIG. 1, 102, 110, 122, 126, 128; p. 3, l. 10-14, 26-30; p. 4, l. 1-29); means for creating a database content table that indicates the data types of the data elements present in the database (FIG. 1, 122, 126; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 4, l. 14-29); means for establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements identifying a set of data types required for the associated report (FIG. 1, 126, 130; 134; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 5, l. 1-8; p. 8, l. 7-11); means for determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements (FIG. 1, 126, 132; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 12, l. 4-13); and means for outputting a set of report identifiers for which the data types of data elements in the database satisfy the associated sets of report requirements (FIG. 1, 124, 126, 132; p. 3, l. 5-9, 26-29; p. 3, l. 30 – p. 4, l. 4; p. 12, l. 8-15).

Another embodiment is an apparatus for selection of reports of log data generated by software executing on a host data processing system, wherein the log data are stored by the host system in a sequential log file of log records of different log record types. The apparatus includes means for establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements including a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report (FIG. 1, 126, 130; 134; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 5, l. 1-8; p. 8, l. 7-11); means for reading selected log records from the log file (FIG. 1, 102, 110, 122, 124, 126, 136; p. 3, l. 10-31; p. 4, l. 1-13; p. 5, l. 9-16); means for storing log data from the selected log records in a relational log-data database (FIG. 1, 102, 110, 122,

126, 128; p. 3, l. 10-14, 26-30; p. 4, l. 1-29); means for creating a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records (FIG. 1, 122, 126; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 4, l. 14-29); means for determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements (FIG. 1, 126, 132; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 12, l. 4-13); and means for outputting a set of report identifiers of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions (FIG. 1, 124, 126, 132; p. 3, l. 5-9, 26-29; p. 3, l. 30 – p. 4, l. 4; p. 12, l. 8-15).

In a further embodiment of the invention, a log data processing system is provided. The system includes a host data processing system and a second data processing system. The host data processing system is configured for execution of a plurality of application programs, the host system further configured to store log data pertaining to the application programs in a sequential log file of log records of different log record types (FIG. 1, 102, 106, 108; p. 3, l. 10-25). The second data processing system is coupled to the host system, and the second system configured to initiate reading of selected log records from the log file in response to a first request that includes a first code indicating at least one user-specified log record type (FIG. 1, 102, 110, 122, 124, 126, 136; p. 3, l. 10-31; p. 4, l. 1-13; p. 5, l. 9-16). The second data processing system is further configured to convert log data from the selected log records to a format suitable for storage in a relational database (FIG. 1, 122; FIG. 3, 310; p. 4, l. 14-16; p. 6, l. 22-30), and store the data of the second format in a relational database by the log record types (FIG. 1, 102, 110, 122, 126, 128; p. 3, l. 10-14, 26-30; p. 4, l. 1-29). A report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements (FIG. 1, 126, 130, 134; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 5, l. 1-8; p. 8, l. 7-11) is established by the second data processing system. Each set of report requirements includes a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report, create a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records (FIG. 1, 122, 126; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 4, l. 14-29), determine for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements

present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements (FIG. 1, 126, 132; p. 3, l. 26-29; p. 12, l. 4-13), and output a set of report identifiers of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions (FIG. 1, 124, 126, 132; p. 3, l. 5-9, 26-29; p. 3, l. 30 – p. 4, l. 4; p. 12, l. 8-15).

A computer-implemented method for report selection in a system that provides a plurality of reports is provided in another embodiment. The method includes storing information that indicates data types of data elements present in a database (FIG. 3, 314; p. 4, l. 14-29; p. 7, l. 15-18). For each of a plurality of reports a set of report information is stored, each set of report information includes a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, and each set of report requirements identifies a set of data types required for the associated report (FIG. 1, 134; FIG. 4, 402; p. 10, l. 6-15). From the sets of report information, a set of report identifiers is selected for which the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the set of report requirements associated with each report identifier (FIG. 4, 408; p. 12, l. 4-13). The selected set of report identifiers are then output (FIG. 4, 410; p. 12, l. 8-16).

VI. Grounds of Rejection

A. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over “Hartmann” (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,955 to Hartmann et al.) in view of “Kawano” (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,286 to Kawano).

VII. Argument

A. The rejections of claims 1-24 over the Hartmann-Kawano combination should be reversed because the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness

The rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hartmann-Kawano combination should be reversed. The Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness because all the limitations are not shown to be suggested by the combination, the alleged motivation for making the

combination is improper, and there is no apparent reasonable likelihood of successfully making the combination.

Claims 1, 2, 3

The Examiner does not show that the Hartmann-Kawano combination teaches or suggests all the limitations of the claims. For example, claim 1 includes limitations of and related to determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements.

The cited teachings of Hartmann do not reasonably appear to suggest these limitations. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that Hartmann suggests these limitations at col. 9, l. 1-2; col. 11, l. 40-42, and col. 15, l. 54-58. However, the text from Hartmann presented below clearly demonstrates that the claim limitations are not suggested. The cited text includes:

Report generator 208 is configured for generating user-specified reports. For example, users may specify that reports are to be generated on an hourly basis, a daily basis, a weekly basis or a monthly basis. In one embodiment, report generator 208 uses report configuration control information 216 to dynamically determine the report type and the particular format of the report that is to be generated. Thus, by updating the report configuration control information 216, a user may control the type of report that is to be generated, and the particular sampling intervals and data categories that are to be used in generating the report data. (col. 9, l. 1-12)

...

If integers follow the report identifier, the values of the attribute for that report are to be subcategorized into the buckets. If none follow, then the values of the attribute are to be counted or summed. If the integers are preceded by an equals sign (=), then occurrences of a discrete value are to be counted, rather than being counted in a range of values. (col. 11, l. 40-45)

...

At block 708, the report archive data is used to generate user-specified reports dynamically based on a set of user-specified requirements. In one embodiment, a report generator is configured to generate report data based on user-specified report configuration control information. Once generated, the report data can be read and formatted to generate to particular report as required by the user. (col. 15, l. 54-60).

None of these cited teachings in any apparent way suggests determining for which reports a database satisfies the report requirements.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hartmann neither teaches nor suggests outputting a set of report identifiers for which the data types of data elements in the database satisfy the associated sets of report requirements, and the cited teachings of Kawano neither teach nor suggest these limitations. The cited teachings of Kawano include:

These and other objects of the invention are accomplished in accordance with the principles of the invention by providing a method and apparatus for generating and distributing computer output reports which does not require programing, does not require familiarity with database query languages, and does not require access to a database. Unattributed reports and attributed reports are stored in a report warehouse.

Attributed reports are generated from unattributed reports and attributed reports. Exceptions in reports stored in the report warehouse are monitored and selected users are notified. As used herein, an unattributed report comprises report data and an attributed report comprises report data and report structure definitions. (col. 1, l. 64 – col. 2, l. 10)

It can be seen from the cited text that there is no apparent suggestion of the limitations of outputting report identifiers for those particular reports for which the data types of data elements in the database satisfy the associated sets of report requirements. Thus, the Examiner has not shown that the Hartmann-Kawano teaches or suggests all the limitations of claim 1.

The Examiner does not provide a proper motivation to support combining the teachings of Hartmann and Kawano. The alleged motivation states that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings “wherein report warehouse provided therein (see Kawano’s fig. 2, item 20) would incorporate the use of report pool and report definition in the repository, in the same conventional manner as described by Kawano (coll. 1, lines 65-67 and col. 2, lines 1-10) ... [in order to] ease the process of generating the report without using any command language by using the GUI.” This alleged motivation is conclusory and improper.

Hartmann suggests the capability of a user defining “custom reports by modifying report configuration control information, thereby reducing the need for custom report programming.” It is respectfully submitted that no evidence has been

presented to show that Hartmann's approach is in anyway cumbersome. Nor has any evidence been presented to show how (or even whether) Hartmann's approach could be improved by Kawano's teachings. Furthermore, it is not apparent how the combination could be made with a reasonable degree of success.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and reversal of the rejection of claims 1-3 is respectfully requested because the Examiner has failed to show all the limitations are taught by the Hartmann-Kawano combination, failed to provide a proper motivation for making the combination, and the combination does not appear to be achievable with a reasonable likelihood of success.

Claim 4

The Examiner has not shown that the Hartmann-Kawano combination suggests the limitations of claim 4 of and related to reading the selected data elements from a sequential data file prior to populating the database. The Office Examiner cites Hartmann's teachings of an displaying error messages to an error log. However, there is no cited teaching that Hartmann reads the error log information and then populates a database in accordance with the other related limitations of claims 1-4. Thus, claim 4 is not shown to be suggested by the Hartmann-Kawano combination.

Claims 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

The Examiner failed to establish that claim 5 is unpatentable over the Hartmann-Kawano combination for at least the reasons set forth above in regards to claim 1. In addition, claim 5 includes limitations of and related to reading selected log records from the log file, storing log data from the selected log records in a relational log-data database, and creating a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records. The cited teachings of Hartmann do not appear to teach these limitations. For example, there is no showing of a suggestion to create a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records. The teaching cited by the Examiner includes:

Report generator 208 is a computer, or one or more hardware or software components or processes that cooperate or execute in one or more computer systems. Report generator 208 is configured to read report archive data 212 and to dynamically generate report data 218 based on the particular needs of a user or administrator. In one embodiment, the report data 218 is maintained as a plurality of separate report files based on the particular information that is of interest to the user. In a preferred embodiment, report data 218 is stored as one or more comma-separated-value files (".csv files") to allow the information to be read or imported by other software. In another embodiment, report data 218 is stored in a database system and is accessible by a user through a database application program. (col. 6, l. 49-62)

There is no apparent suggestion of a database content table that indicates log record types of the selected log records. This teaching of Hartmann appears to suggest comma separated report data in a file. It is respectfully noted that those skilled in the art will recognize that the claimed log record type information is not the same as the log data itself. Thus, the limitations of claim 5 have not been shown to be suggested by the Hartmann-Kawano combination.

The alleged motivation for making the Hartmann-Kawano combination in regards to claim 5 is the same as the alleged motivation asserted for claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner has not provided a proper motivation for making the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and a reasonable likelihood of successfully making the combination is not apparent.

Claim 8 depends from claim 5, claim 9 depends from claim 8, claim 10 depends from claim 9, claim 11 depends from claim 5, and claim 12 depends from claim 11. The rejection of claims 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 should be reversed because a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established as explained above.

Claims 6 and 7

The Examiner fails to show that the Hartmann-Kawano combination suggests the limitations of claim 6 including, for each log record type of the selected log records, storing log data from the selected log records of the log record type in a respective log data table. Along with the Hartmann's teaching at col. 6, as quoted above, the Examiner cites Hartmann's teaching of:

The report data 218 can be viewed as a matrix and, in one embodiment, can be implemented in one or more stored matrices or database tables. Each time period within the report (e.g. each hour in a daily report) can be viewed as a row in the matrix. Each customer or user can be viewed as a column in the matrix. Data is accumulated in a row within one time period. When a new time period is processed, the row index is incremented and a new accumulation begins. When a new customer or user is encountered, a new column is added. (col. 16, l. 30-39).

These teachings at columns 6 and 16 contain no apparent suggestion of respective tables according to log record types. While these teachings appear to generally suggest one or more database tables, it is not apparent how the general teaching of multiple tables suggests the specific claim limitations of a respective database table for each log record type. Furthermore, no explanation has been provided as to how these teachings are thought to correspond to the claim limitations. Therefore, the rejection should be reversed.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and is not shown to be unpatentable for the reasons set forth above for claim 6.

Claims 13, 16, and 17

The rejection of claim 13 should be reversed because the Examiner has not shown that the Hartmann-Kawano combination teaches or suggests all the limitations. Claim 13 depends from claim 5 and includes additional limitations of and related to transmitting the selected log records from the host system to a second data processing system, and converting log data from the selected log records to a format suitable for storage in a relational database and storing the data of the second format in a relational database by the log record types, wherein the selected log records are converted and stored in the relational database at the second data processing system. The Examiner has failed to show that Hartmann teaches or suggests these limitations.

At the cited col. 20, l. 1-32 of Hartmann, the suggestion is to provide sequences of instructions to a processor via a network. There is no apparent suggestion of transmitting the selected log records from a host system to a second data processing system. Furthermore, the cited teachings of Kawano at col. 1, l. 65-

67; col. 2, l. 1-10; col. 4, l. 6-18 generally discuss distributing computer output reports, generating attributed reports from unattributed reports, and converting unattributed reports into attributed reports. There is no apparent suggestion of the claimed transmission of selected log records from a host system to a second data processing system and then the conversion of those log records to relational database storage format and storage at the second data processing system. It is respectfully submitted that the alleged general showing of distributing report data does not reasonably suggest the specifically claimed transmission of log data records, the particular conversion, and the particular storage at the second data processing system.

For these reasons and the reasons set forth above in regards to claim 1, the Examiner has not shown that claim 13 is unpatentable over the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and the rejection should be reversed.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 13, and the rejection of claims 16 and 17 should be reversed for the reasons set forth above in regards to claim 13.

Claims 14 and 15

Claim 14 includes limitations similar to those of claim 6 and also depends from claim 13. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above in regards to the rejection of claim 6, claim 14 is not shown to be unpatentable over the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and the rejection should be reversed.

Claim 15 depends from claim 14, and the rejection of claim 15 should be reversed for the reasons set forth above for claim 14.

Claim 18

Claim 18 is an apparatus claim in means plus function format and includes functional limitations similar to those of claim 1. The Examiner has not shown that the Hartmann-Kawano combination suggests the functions of claim 18 as explained above for claim 1. Furthermore, the Examiner has not considered the structure (e.g., FIG. 1) disclosed in the specification in alleging that the claims are unpatentable. ("the PTO may not disregard the structure disclosed in the

specification corresponding to such language when rendering a patentability determination.” *In re Donaldson Co.*, 16 F.3d 1189, 29 USPQ2d 1845 (Fed. Cir. 1994) MPEP 2181). Therefore, claim 18 has not been shown to be unpatentable over the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and the rejection should be reversed.

Claim 19

Claim 19 is an apparatus claim in means plus function format and includes functional limitations similar to those of claim 5. The Examiner has not shown that the functions of claim 19 are suggested by the Hartmann-Kawano combination for the reasons set forth above for claim 5, and in addition has not shown that the Hartmann-Kawano combination suggests the structure disclosed in the specification. Therefore, claim 19 has not been shown to be unpatentable over the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and the rejection should be reversed.

In preparing this brief, two typographical errors were noticed (“method” in the preamble and a “determining” without the word “means”). The claim is thought to be reasonably definite for purposes of examination and the errors will be corrected at the appropriate time.

Claim 20

Claim 20 is a system claim that includes the functional limitations described above for claim 13 and further claims the designated functions performed by a host data processing system and a second data processing system. Not only has the Examiner failed to show that the Hartmann-Kawano combination suggests the claimed functions, but the Examiner has also failed to show any corresponding data processing systems in the Hartmann-Kawano combination as performing the designated functions.

The alleged motivation for making the Hartmann-Kawano combination in regards to claim 20 is the same as the alleged motivation asserted for claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner has not provided a proper motivation for making the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and a reasonable likelihood of successfully making the combination is not apparent.

Therefore, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 20, and the rejection should be reversed.

Claims 21, 22, 23, and 24

The Examiner has not shown that the Hartmann-Kawano combination teaches or suggests all the limitations of claim 21. For example, claim 21 includes limitations of and related to selecting from sets of report information, a set of report identifiers for which the data types of the data elements present in a database satisfy the set of report requirements associated with each report identifier. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited teachings of Hartmann appears to reasonably suggest these limitations. The Examiner alleged that Hartmann's col. 3, l. 8-58 suggests the limitations. However, there is no apparent selection any report identifier based on data types of data elements present in a database. The cited portion of Hartmann appears to generally teach creating and storing report configuration information that defines reports. This is not suggestive of selecting report identifiers based on data types of data elements present in the database.

The alleged motivation for making the Hartmann-Kawano combination in regards to claim 21 is the same as the alleged motivation asserted for claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner has not provided a proper motivation for making the Hartmann-Kawano combination, and a reasonable likelihood of successfully making the combination is not apparent.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claim 21, and the rejection should be reversed.

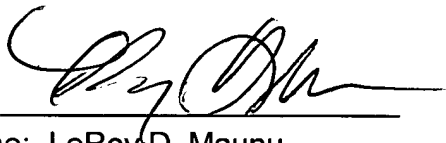
Claims 22, 23, and 24 depend from claim 21, and the rejection of these claims should also be reversed.

VIII. Conclusion

In view of the above, Appellant submits that the rejections are improper, the claimed invention is patentable, and that the rejections of claims 1-24 should be reversed. Appellant respectfully requests reversal of the rejections as applied to the appealed claims and allowance of the entire application.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAWFORD MAUNU PLLC
1270 Northland Drive – Suite 390
St. Paul, MN 55120
(651) 686-6633

By: 
Name: LeRoy D. Maunu
Reg. No. 35,274

APPENDIX OF APPEALED CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method for report selection in a system that provides a plurality of reports, comprising:
 - populating a database with selected data elements of a plurality of data types;
 - creating a database content table that indicates the data types of the data elements present in the database;
 - establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements identifying a set of data types required for the associated report;
 - determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements; and
 - outputting a set of report identifiers for which the data types of data elements in the database satisfy the associated sets of report requirements.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - creating a report description table that associates report names with the report identifiers; and
 - displaying a list of report names that correspond to the set of report identifiers.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the list of report names displayed are selectable and linked to respective report functions that generate report data in accordance with predefined formats.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising reading the selected data elements from a sequential data file prior to populating the database.
5. A computer-implemented method for selection of reports of log data generated by software executing on a host data processing system, wherein the log

data are stored by the host system in a sequential log file of log records of different log record types, the method comprising:

- establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements including a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report;

- reading selected log records from the log file;

- storing log data from the selected log records in a relational log-data database;

- creating a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records;

- determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements; and

- outputting a set of report identifiers of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising for each log record type of the selected log records, storing log data from the selected log records of the log record type in a respective log data table.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

- reading a plurality of sets of selected log records from the log file;

- storing log data from the plurality of sets of selected log records in respective relational log-data databases;

- creating respective database content tables for the respective relational log-data databases.

8. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

- reading a plurality of sets of selected log records from the log file;

storing log data from the plurality of sets of selected log records in respective relational log-data databases;

creating respective database content tables for the respective relational log-data databases.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

creating a report description table that associates report names with the report identifiers; and

displaying a list of report names that correspond to the set of report identifiers.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the list of report names displayed are selectable and linked to respective report functions that generate report data in accordance with predefined formats.

11. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

creating a report description table that associates report names with the report identifiers; and

displaying a list of report names that correspond to the set of report identifiers.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the list of report names displayed are selectable and linked to respective report functions that generate report data in accordance with predefined formats.

13. A computer-implemented method for processing log data generated by software executing on a host data processing system, wherein the log data are stored by the host system in a sequential log file of log records of different log record types, the method comprising:

reading selected log records from the log file in response to a first request that includes a first code indicating at least one user-specified log record type;

transmitting the selected log records from the host system to a second data processing system;

converting log data from the selected log records to a format suitable for storage in a relational database and storing the data of the second format in a relational database by the log record types, wherein the selected log records are converted and stored in the relational database at the second data processing system;

establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements including a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report;

creating a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records;

determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements; and

outputting a set of report identifiers of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising for each log record type of the selected log records, storing log data from the selected log records of the log record type in a respective log data table.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

reading a plurality of sets of selected log records from the log file;

storing log data from the plurality of sets of selected log records in respective relational log-data databases;

creating respective database content tables for the respective relational log-data databases.

16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

creating a report description table that associates report names with the report identifiers; and

displaying a list of report names that correspond to the set of report identifiers.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein the list of report names displayed are selectable and linked to respective report functions that generate report data in accordance with predefined formats.

18. An apparatus for report selection in a system that provides a plurality of reports, comprising:

means for populating a database with selected data elements of a plurality of data types;

means for creating a database content table that indicates the data types of the data elements present in the database;

means for establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements identifying a set of data types required for the associated report;

means for determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements; and

means for outputting a set of report identifiers for which the data types of data elements in the database satisfy the associated sets of report requirements.

19. An apparatus for selection of reports of log data generated by software executing on a host data processing system, wherein the log data are stored by the host system in a sequential log file of log records of different log record types, the method comprising:

means for establishing a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report

requirements including a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report;

means for reading selected log records from the log file;

means for storing log data from the selected log records in a relational log-data database;

means for creating a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records;

determining for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements; and

means for outputting a set of report identifiers of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions.

20. A log data processing system, comprising:

a host data processing system configured for execution of a plurality of application programs, the host system further configured to store log data pertaining to the application programs in a sequential log file of log records of different log record types; and

a second data processing system coupled to the host system, the second system configured to initiate reading of selected log records from the log file in response to a first request that includes a first code indicating at least one user-specified log record type, convert log data from the selected log records to a format suitable for storage in a relational database, and store the data of the second format in a relational database by the log record types, wherein the second data processing system is further configured to establish a report table containing for each report a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements including a set of log-record-type identifiers indicating which of the log record types contain log data required for the associated report, create a database content table that indicates the log record types of the selected log records, determine for each report identifier whether the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the associated set of requirements, and output a set

of report identifiers of reports for which the log data in the database content data table satisfies the set of report requirements of associated report definitions.

21. A computer-implemented method for report selection in a system that provides a plurality of reports, comprising:

- storing information that indicates data types of data elements present in a database;

- storing for each of a plurality of reports a set of report information, each set of report information including a report identifier and an associated set of report requirements, each set of report requirements identifying a set of data types required for the associated report;

- selecting from the sets of report information, a set of report identifiers for which the data types of the data elements present in the database satisfy the set of report requirements associated with each report identifier; and

- outputting the selected set of report identifiers.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- storing respective report names in association with the report identifiers; and

- displaying a list of report names that correspond to the selected set of report identifiers.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the list of report names displayed are selectable and linked to respective report functions that generate report data in accordance with predefined formats.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

- reading data elements from a sequential data file; and

- populating the database with the data elements.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.